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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An actuating drive for valve drives having a variably adjustable stroke, for actuating valves of internal combustion engines is provided, which can be arranged in cylinder heads having usual dimensions, next to the valve activation mechanisms, in advantageous manner. The element that is changeable in its angle position is provided with a guide toggle coupled in fixed rotational manner, which is in engagement with an actuating shaft arranged adjacent to it, guided in the cylinder head in displaceable manner. This actuating slide has an actuating bridge in the region of the actuating path, with which contact surfaces of the actuating lever are engaged on one or both sides. The actuating slide is coupled with an actuating motor, which effects the axial actuating movements of the actuating slide counter to the forces introduced by the actuating lever. It is advantageous if the actuating slide is arranged on the side of the cylinder head opposite the camshaft, and thereby fits advantageously into the usual design of cylinder heads.